

I. The Census

- A. Timing – no later than 4 BC (weird, huh?)
- B. What the census entailed
- C. What the census signified

II. The Birth

- A. Simply told.
- B. Mary is *very* pregnant at this point – probably the donkey ride from Nazareth to Bethlehem didn't help.
- C. The Son of God has come.
- D. They are staying in a “staying-place” and there is no room for the baby. (see Isaiah 1:3)

III. The Good News

- A. To whom?
- B. “Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people” (Isaiah 40:9; 52:7)
- C. “For today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord” (1 Samuel 17:12; “savior” Isaiah 43:3, 11; 45:15, 21, 26; 60:16; “anointed” 1 Samuel 2:10; Psalm 2:2; 18:50; 20:6; 132:10, 17; Isaiah 61:1; Daniel 9:25)
- D. “This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”
- E. The angelic entourage breaks out of hiding and into praise!

IV. The Shepherds' Privilege – and Ours

- A. The shepherds promptly enter Bethlehem to see what was promised.
- B. Believe
- C. Speak
- D. Meditate
- E. Praise